

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,961

Examiner

Ginger T. Chapman

Applicant(s)

BONELLI ET AL.

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/19/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: independent claims 1, 10 and 17 include limitations relating to an absorbent article having one or more side flaps or wings extending in a transverse direction and comprising at least one corrugated region including ridges and recesses with the ridges rising toward a garment facing surface of the article and having glue strips attached to the crests of the ridges.

The closest prior art of record uncovered during examination discloses the following elements:

US Patent No. 5,891,121 issued to Redwine et al: teaches an absorbent article having side wings wherein the side wings comprise at least one corrugated region including ridges and recesses rising toward the garment facing surface, and teaches areas of adhesive located on the wings adjacent the corrugated region. Redwine does not teach the adhesive attached to the crests of the ridges.

US Patent No. 4,940,462 issued to Salerno: teaches an absorbent article having side wings wherein the side wings comprise corrugated regions including ridges and recesses rising toward the garment facing surface, and teaches pressure sensitive adhesive for attaching the article to the garment but does not teach adhesive on the side wings.

US Patent No. 6,358,233 issued to Taylor: teaches an absorbent article having side wings wherein the side wings comprise at least one corrugated region including ridges and recesses rising toward the garment facing surface, and teaches non elastically extensible adhesive applied

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in a plurality of glue stripes to the side wings so as not to interfere with the elastic extensibility of the wings, but does not teach the glue strips on the crests of the ridges of the corrugated regions.

US Patent No. 6,059,764 issued to Osborn, III et al: teaches an absorbent article having side wings wherein the side wings comprise at least one corrugated region including ridges and recesses rising toward the garment facing surface, and teaches hook and loop fasteners and adhesive areas, but does not teach the adhesive attached to the corrugated regions of the side wings.

While the prior art of record discloses sanitary napkins having side wings wherein the side wings comprise at least one corrugated region including ridges and recesses rising toward the garment facing surface, and the prior art teaches adhesives applied adjacent the corrugated regions, none disclose or fairly suggest the side wings in combination with the ridges of the corrugated regions having glue strips attached to the crests of the ridges. These features render the claimed invention non-obvious over the prior art of record. Claims 2-9, 11-16 and 18-20 are allowable as being dependent from independent claims 1, 10 and 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ginger T. Chapman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4934.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ginger Chapman
Examiner, Art Unit 3761
3/29/07



TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

